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ORIGIN COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 EB-11 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20

STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 FEA-02

OMB-01 /191 R

66615

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INFO AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: GATT ETRD, SZ

SUBJECT: INSTRUCTIONS FOR GATT COUNCIL MEETING MARCH 15

REF:(A) GENEVA 0812 (B) STATE 016720

1. FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS FOR MISSION USE IN GATT
COUNCIL MEETING MARCH 15 WHEN TOPIC OF ICELAND'S
DISINVOKATION ARTICLE XII DISCUSSED.

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2. ICELAND'S DISINVOKATION ARTICLE XII LEAVES

REMAINING QR'S WITHOUT LEGAL BASIS GIVEN INDICATIONS THAT ICELAND WILL NOT SEEK WAIVER. WE BELIEVE TO IGNORE DISINVOKATION WOULD SET INAPPROPRIATE PRECEDENT IN VIEW U.S. POLICY OF SEEKING REMOVAL OF RESIDUAL QR'S MAINTAINED BY OTHER CP'S. THIS POSITION REINFORCED BY FACT THAT TRADE COVERAGE OF SOME QR'S MAINTAINED BY CERTAIN CP'S IS SUBSTANTIAL. MOREOVER, AS BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PRESSURES ON MANY CP'S GROW THIS YEAR, LIKELIHOOD OF INCREASED RESORT TO IMPORT RESTRICTIONS BY THESE NATIONS IS GREATER. IT IS, THEREFORE, EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT U.S. STRESS NEED FOR ALL NATIONS TO ABIDE BY INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS AND RULES AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY.

3. IN CASE OF ICELAND DISINVOKATION WE HAVE NOTED MISSION'S COMMENTS REFTEL (A) THAT PRESSING FOR WAIVER HAS LIMITED CHANCE OF SUCCESS AND WOULD AGGRAVATE BILATERAL RELATIONS. IN VIEW THIS FACT AND SINCE RELATIVELY SMALL PERCENTAGE OF ICELAND'S IMPORTS WILL REMAIN SUBJECT TO QR'S (ASSUMING ICELAND FILLS ITS COMMITMENT TO REMOVE RESTRICTIONS ON INDUSTRIAL IMPORTS BY END 1974), MISSION SHOULD NOT PRESS ICELAND TO SEEK WAIVER. THIS CONSTITUTES CHANGE FROM PRELIMINARY U.S. POSITION REFTEL (B).

4. AT COUNCIL MEETING MISSION SHOULD MAKE LIMITED ADMONITION AS SUGGESTED REFTEL (A), INDICATING U.S. URGES ICELAND REMOVE REMAINING QR'S AS CONDITIONS PERMIT AND EXPECTS ICELAND TO ADHERE TO ITS ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO REMOVE REMAINING INDUSTRIAL QR'S BY END THIS YEAR. MISSION MAY ALSO WISH TO STATE U.S. VIEW THAT PROGRESS TOWARD TRADE LIBERALIZATION BY ALL CP'S AS CIRCUMSTANCES PERMIT ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT AT THIS TIME TO ASSURE SMOOTH FLOW OF INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE.

5. MISSION MAY INDICATE TO BENEDIKTSSON ABOVE REASONS FOR U.S. SEEKING INCLUSION OF ICELAND DISINVOKATION ON AGENDA AS MISSION FEELS APPROPRIATE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM PRODUCTS, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, IMPORT CONTROLS, ECONOMIC PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE048581
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: IEPR/RFRANCIS/D. GARDNER
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740352/aaaabwxq.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN COME
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) GENEVA 0812 (B) STATE 016720
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <27 JUN 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INSTRUCTIONS FOR GATT COUNCIL MEETING MARCH 15
TAGS: ETRD, SZ, GATT
To: GENEVA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005